

Rabbi's Column

The December Dilemma

December is sometimes a hard month for Jewish people. The ever present Christmas mall music (ironically, much of it written by Jews), the ubiquitous red and green decorations, the perfunctory holiday greetings at shops; all these remind Jewish people that we are not of the American majority culture. In addition, we become invisible as Jews, or find ourselves in the awkward position of having to respond to every well-meaning salesperson who smiles and says, "Merry Christmas," by declaring our Jewish identity.



Rabbi Jane Litman

"No, actually I don't celebrate Christmas—I'm Jewish."

To which the reply is often a look of confusion, or embarrassment, or a mumbled, "Well, Merry, the thing that you do, what's it called?"

One year I was shopping with my son Asher who was then about four years old. The clerk said to him, "Now have you been good for Santa?" Asher replied, "I don't have to be good—I'm Jewish!"

This seasonal invisibility as Jews reminds many of us of our ongoing invisibility as gay people. These two identities are not worn publicly, so short of walking around with a kippah and a "I'm queer and I'm here" t-shirt at all times, we must constantly deal with the world's incorrect assumptions about who we are. We must make choices about when and how to declare our identities.

This is exactly the message modern Jews can find in the holy days of Chanukah. Chanukah celebrates the Jewish refusal to pass in order to gain material goods. About 2,100 years ago, Antiochus IV, king of Assyria, offered the Jews considerable monetary bribes to forsake their ancestral religion and

Continued on page 6

Chanukah 5758

Chanukah will be the first holiday that we will celebrate anticipating the move to our new home. Therefore, it is most appropriate to continue the tradition that began last year of having "Chanukah at Home." This year we light the first Chanukah candle on the evening of December 23, and we will celebrate as a community at various members' homes on the following Saturday and Sunday evenings.

As well as giving us a sense of home during our transition, Chanukah open houses will keep us rooted in the tradition of Chanukah—a holiday centered in the home, not the synagogue. The open houses let members get to know each other in the warm setting of someone's home. A kitchen filled with the aroma of Chanukah treats frying in hot oil provides an intimate way for people to meet and celebrate with other members of the CSZ family. In order to mix and match congregants, each participant will be assigned to a specific party, and will be asked to bring something to share.

We need people to volunteer their homes. Hosts are not expected to do all the work alone. They will receive Chanukah packets with recipes, prayers, candles, dreidels, etc., and plenty of support from the program coordinator. We also need your ideas, old family traditions, and volunteer help. Please call Renée Bauer at the office if you want to volunteer your home or time, or just to share your ideas.

Please see the enclosed flyer for more details and to sign up to participate.

Monthly Tot Shabbat

December's Toddler/Preschooler Shabbat service will be held at the home of Judy Schwartz and Carolyn Pines, 2821 55th Avenue, Oakland, on Friday, December 19 at 6:45 pm. In addition to regular Shabbat festivities we will sing songs and tell stories to get ready for Chanukah. Don't miss the fun. Call Renée in the office if you need directions to Judy and Carolyn's home.

CSZ Interim Space Information

Contacting us: Our telephone, fax and e-mail remain the same.

Telephone: (415) 861-6932

Fax: (415) 861-6081

E-mail: shaarzahav@igc.apc.org

Website: www.shaarzahav.org

Writing us: Please send all roster updates, newsletter submissions, dues payments, donations and other materials to our new home. *Use this address for writing to us only.*

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
290 Dolores Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Visiting us: Rabbi Litman and our office staff are sharing space with the staff of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th St., catty-corner from our new building. Our drop-in hours are limited. Please call us before dropping by.

Worship services: All Shabbat services, except our monthly East Bay service, will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. (Note: Rabbi Litman's installation service on December 5 will be at the Unitarian Center.) Healing services are now at Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California St.

Meetings: Va'ad meetings remain open to all members, and will be at 345 Church St. (Church Street Gardens). For the location of committee meetings, contact the chair of the committee.

Open Hand Mitzvah

Sha'ar Zahav and Jewish Family and Children's Services are taking over all the volunteer shifts at Project Open Hand on December 24 and 25, and a few shifts on December 23. We still need your help to fill all 150 slots. If you have not signed up, call Stephan Howard (567-2886) by December 5.

Biennial Notes

From October 29 until November 2, about 4,500 synagogue rabbis and lay leaders convened in Dallas, Texas for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations' 64th general assembly—the Biennial. Being there with the five other members of Sha'ar Zahav and leaders from congregations from around the United States and Canada was an amazing experience.



Diana Buchbinder

In addition to considering and voting on resolutions which affect the governance of the UAHC, there were workshops, services and, as you might expect, the requisite number of speeches. Joining Paul Cohen, Daniel Chesir, Barak Gale, Eli Weinstein, Mike Rankin and me, was our program coordinator, Renée Bauer, who attended the Program Directors' meeting a few days earlier. We met and spent time with other delegates from around the country and had a chance to compare notes on everything from new buildings to teen programming. As is often the case, I was struck with how we at CSZ are at the cutting edge in addressing the issues which are of current concern.

Every event of this nature has certain moments that resonate more than others. During this biennial there were two such times. The first was during voting on the resolutions. While there were many governance resolutions voted on (including the adoption of a new Union membership dues policy), two resolutions in particular caused me to think about our congregation. One proposed resolution was to change the UAHC policy on intermarriage, abandoning the past practice of discouraging the participation of Reform rabbis in such ceremonies. This was an extremely contentious topic, and the resolution did not succeed. The second was a resolution in support of civil marriage for lesbians and gays. This resolution, while not without its opponents, was passed by a clear majority of the delegates. Here were representatives from all over North

America, some probably slightly less liberal than ourselves, who were making a statement about their values in both the area of Judaism and life commitments. Whether or not I agree with both votes, I am certainly encouraged to see that there is movement and discussion on relevant and critical topics in the world beyond us.

The second moment was in the presidential address given by Rabbi Eric Yoffie. The basic message of his address was to remind us that all aspects of synagogue life are a spiritual endeavor. He discussed the importance of the leadership having a finely developed sense of the sacred potential of all things, and the central role of the rabbi in serving as a guide for spiritual development. He proposed a five point plan for synagogue boards to adopt to further our Jewish learning, stating that a fundamental rule of synagogue life is that the synagogue's level of commitment will never rise above that of its leaders. The five points are:

1. The study of Torah by the board, including reading and discussing four significant Jewish books a year.

2. Every significant committee meeting held in our synagogues should include the study of a Jewish text.

3. Training congregants to read Torah.

4. To incorporate Torah study into Shabbat observance.

5. That all congregations set aside Saturday evening, May 30, 1998 for a movement-wide celebration of the most intensive year of Torah study in the history of Reform Judaism.

I was moved by his reminder to infuse all that we do with a spiritual essence, and, frankly, relieved to note that CSZ is already doing points 2, 3 and 4. You can be sure the other two will follow. Both the text of Rabbi Yoffie's speech and the video are available at the synagogue office. For me it was a much valued reminder about why I am here, and what, in the final analysis, unites us all. *Ken yehi ratzon.*

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CSZ Book Group

Judith Katz and the CSZ book group, the Fiction Connection, spent a wonderful evening discussing her latest book, *The Escape Artist*. The evening was made possible by the CSZ Ma'ayan Fund.

The Fiction Connection members meet once a month to discuss a book. We will be reading Allegra Goodman's *Family Markowitz* for December. For more information, including the date, time and location of the December meeting, contact Mark Mackler at 826-8733.

Men at CSZ

Plans have started to develop programming for men of different ages at CSZ. The kickoff event will be one of the CSZ "Chanukah at Home" parties. Be sure to send in the enclosed flyer if you want to attend. If you are interested in developing men's activities at CSZ, call Renée at the synagogue office.

HIV Support Group

CSZ has ongoing support services for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners.

In December, we'll meet on the second Saturday—the 13th—at 3 pm. Please call the office for location information.

If you have any questions or would like to put your name on our confidential mailing list, please call the office. Join us.

Laughing With La'atid

Wondering how to entertain yourself on the national holiday that begins on the evening of December 24? Look no farther! Join La'atid for Kung Pao Kosher Comedy—an evening of Jewish comedy at a Chinese restaurant. La'atid will have a table on Wednesday, December 24, at 9:30 pm. To reserve a space, call Renée in the office and send a check for \$25 to CSZ, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103. \$25 is a special price for La'atid members. If you cannot afford it, call Karen at (510) 654-6346 to volunteer in lieu of payment.

A Reading by Elana Dykewomon

Elana Dykewomon will read from her new novel, *Beyond the Pale*, at a reading cosponsored by CSZ. *Beyond the Pale* recounts the lives of Russian Jewish lesbians who immigrate to New York at the turn of the 20th century. Dykewomon spent ten years researching women's lives in Russia and New York between 1860 and 1912 and will share her insights from this work.

Currently living in the Bay Area, Elana Dykewomon is an activist, cultural worker and author of several other acclaimed books. The reading will take place on Sunday, December 14, 5:30 pm, at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street.

My Conversion Continues

Giving Up Christmas

—Tory Weiser

Last year I celebrated both Chanukah and Christmas; this year I'm giving up Christmas. I entertained the idea of celebrating Christmas again this year, but my desire to be Jewish won out.

The idea of giving up Christmas is my biggest loss thus far as a result of my conversion. I will miss Christmas very much. Not the religious observance, but the secular celebration. I have fond memories of Christmas growing up, and I cherish any fond memories of childhood. My family stopped fighting and my parents kept their tempers and drinking in check. I could forget the way they were 364 days a year and have a day free of fear and anger.

And my parents made Christmas a magical time for me and my siblings. We decorated the house and made Christmas cookies. On Christmas Eve, we put up our tree, listened to *T'was the Night Before Christmas*, and went to bed, leaving behind a bare tree. Christmas morning, we gathered at the top of the steps and my father would descend to light the tree. We would slowly follow until we stood before the decorated twinkling tree.

In my adult years, I've tried to keep the Christmas magic alive. My yearly tree has been adorned with my large ornament collection—mostly animals. I've always decorated my house, baked cookies and celebrated with friends.

I'll miss the tree—actually the ornaments—and the cookies the most.

I accept the fact that converting means loss of certain things, but I want to minimize my Christmas loss, given its importance in my life. Keeping the cookies will be easy. Each year, Robin and I spend part of Christmas day at Project Open Hand, handing out dinners to clients. I can think of nothing better to augment an Open Hand Christmas meal than a couple of Christmas cookies. And my ornaments? Rabbi Litman has suggested that I use my animal ornaments to decorate our sukkah next year. I may not see my ornaments this December, but I can't wait until next year when I get to bring something from my old tradition to my new one. And besides, my menorah candles will burn that much brighter not being overshadowed by a six foot Christmas tree.



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Children's Education Board

Minutes of November 3, 1997

1. Educator Position—Based upon a report and recommendation from the Personnel Committee, Rabbi Litman and Ruth Rainero, we unanimously approved a motion to hire David Shneer as our Director of Children's Education.

2. B'nai Mitzvah and tutors—We are concerned about communication of the curriculum to the parents, the preparedness for b'nai mitzvah, volunteer tutors and the assessment of the need for remedial assistance. Mary Morgan and Ron Lezell will meet with Rabbi Litman, Phyllis Mintzer and David Shneer (if available), and then the b'nai mitzvah

families. We discussed establishing a mid-week religious school program.

3. Policy Draft re: CEB Configuration—Ruth Rainero will finalize a proposal based upon CEB's input to her.

4. Kadimah on Saturday vs. Sunday—We hope to hold three parlor meetings, inviting all congregational adults, in January and February. We will continue our discussion in March and April, and then report to the Va'ad.

5. Beeper—Reminder that the Kadimah beeper number is 406-8848. Use it if any emergency occurs during a Kadimah session.

Next Meetings: Mondays at 7 pm, December 1, January 5, February 2. Call the office for location information.

Rabbi News

Rabbi Litman was recently appointed to the Advisory Board of the Jewish AIDS Project. She has a piece in the new *Women's Torah Commentary* published by the Women of Reform Judaism. Call the office for a reprint.

On December 5, at her installation, Rabbi Litman will speak on "The Joys of Being Sha'ar Zahav's Rabbi."

On December 19, Rabbi Litman will speak on "A Century of American Jewish-Christian Dialogue: Where Do We Go From Here?"

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Bill Jones

Michael Sieradzki

We are grateful our congregation is growing. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

New Forward Deadline!

Beginning with the February *Forward* (edited, laid out and distributed in January), all article submissions will be **due by the first Monday of the month**. Currently, articles are due by the second Monday of the month, the night of the Va'ad meeting. Our meetings—editing, layout and distribution—will also move up a week. We are making these changes to ensure that you receive your *Forward* before the new month begins, so that you do not miss out on any important events. The deadline for ads will remain the first Monday of the month.

If you have any concerns about these changes, please contact Robin Leonard at 841-0262 or via email at robinl@nolo.com

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Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, non-members will receive a *Forward* subscription.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

Chair and Editorial Coordinator: Robin Leonard

Layout Coordinator: Rose Katz

Editing/Proofreading/Layout: Stephan Howard, Brian Jersky, Laura Lowe, Doug Rodgers, Jacob Rothman, Karen Schiller, Sam Thal, Tory Weiser

Photography: Michael Bettinger

Advertising: Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)

Distribution: Rachael MacLachlan, coordinator; Alison Cohen, Leora Eisenberg, Sarita Groisser, Laureen Kim, Alan Michels, Nancy Silverrod, Sam Thal, Eli Weinstein

Typesetting: David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

Printing: Genesis Printing & Graphics

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California 94103, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

December 1997/Volume 21, Issue 4.

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Yom Kippur on Corfu

CSZ members Greta Miskatel and Ellie Cohen are traveling in Greece and Israel for several months.

Erev Yom Kippur: We are on a slow ferry making its way from mainland western Greece to the island of Corfu, somewhere south of the heel of Italy in the Adriatic Sea. The sun is slowly setting and we're anxious, hoping we can find the synagogue, hoping they will hold services, hoping we can join them.

Another special Yom Kippur begins. Not exactly CSZ style, but one we'll never forget. The sun was just about down by the time we arrived at the port. Unlike past Yom Kippurs, we were quite unprepared—we hadn't eaten all day. We bought a map and began to make our way through narrow cobblestone streets to the center of this very old city.

We found the synagogue. The two-story building was hidden among ruined old apartment houses, vacant lots and very old stone walls, remnants of centuries of foreign occupation. Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, French, British, Italian, Russian and German had all at one time or another, called this strategically located island and its capital their own. We didn't recognize it as a synagogue at first—there were no signs of Jews worshipping—but finally around the side, under the arched doorway we saw two small Magen Davids. We hugged each other excitedly as chills ran down our backs.

We entered cautiously, not wanting to disturb the service. Stairs went up to the sanctuary on either side. In front of us was a small list in Hebrew of names engraved in marble—on the left, *mativeh kehilenu*, those who do good for the com-

munity (the volunteers) and on the right, *luach hanedivim*, those who were able to give money ("the generous ones").

We heard Hebrew prayers upstairs, but nothing either of us—Sephardi and Ashkenazi—recognized. Instinct told us to go up the left set of stairs and there we found the women's section, if you could call it that: a small group sitting in wooden pews facing one another, talking away as though no service was being held. On the other side sat a group of perhaps eight men, also chatting away with one another. Several men and women held personal prayer books in their hands but few people had siddurim and there were none available.

This *kal*, as Greek Jews call their synagogues, was not the Sephardi congregation we had expected. The ark, with its simple white cloth hanging over the door and a blackened silver *Ner Tamid* hanging overhead, was at the front, and the bimah stood at the back, several steps higher. There was no singing and there were no melodies we could recognize. From the bimah came a quick reading of this holiest of services. The balconies on either side that used to be full of women were closed off, most of the walls were bare and there was an atmosphere of general disrepair.

A kind middle-aged woman greeted us warmly with *shana tova* in Hebrew, and before we knew it the 15 or so women made us feel quite at home. They asked many questions, quite astonished to see us there, all the way from California. Several immediately showed us the numbers on their forearms, a sharp reminder of the Nazi presence 54 years earlier that practically wiped out the Jewish community here. To our surprise, the older women spoke neither Ladino nor Yiddish. They all spoke the Hebrew they had learned in high school before the war—living testimony to the continuation of Jewish tradition from ancient times.

We learned that this was a Romaniut *kal* over 400 years old and founded by descendants of Jews who had come to Greece over 2,000 years ago from Israel. One story tells of a group of Jews who were taken as slaves by the Romans around 50 BCE, but a storm wrecked and sank the ship, freeing the Jews who ultimately came to Corfu.

Corfu had been known as "little

Jerusalem." Before the Holocaust, there was a thriving community here, with over 6,500 Jews and six synagogues. The Nazis burned down five. The sixth, the one we were in, they used as an office. The silver ornaments and other decorations that had adorned the synagogues were stolen. The torah scrolls were used as "flooring." And most horrific of all, every single Jew was taken from his or her home.

Allegra Valleli was one of the 65 who somehow survived and made it back here. All of her eight siblings were killed at Auschwitz, as were her parents and her cousins. Another woman, Rivka, became a partisan, fighting against the Nazis from the mountains in central Greece. She explained to us, almost apologetically, that she married the Christian man who saved her life. Emanuel, another member of the community, was at Auschwitz too. When he returned, he took the lead in the long, and ultimately successful, legal battle to reclaim their torah scrolls.

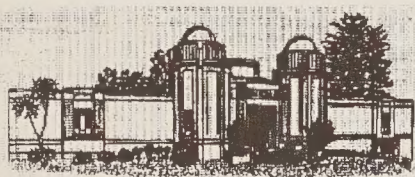
We returned for Neilah the following evening. As Yom Kippur drew to a close, the entire shofar service was conducted—first by a young man and then by an older one. Then several men took the three precious torah scrolls in their arms. As they walked in a circle around the room three times, we were honored and moved to be here.

Just then, church bells rang and cars began honking horns. As if awakened from a dream, we were suddenly reminded that we were in Greece, where weddings are often held on Saturday evenings. But our service continued, not bothered by the noise from outside.

All the Jewish people we spoke to, here and throughout Greece, referred to the community as Jewish, but rarely referred to themselves as Jews. The memory of the Holocaust is still very much present here, as is the reality that the Jewish people of Greece are a tiny minority and anti-Semitism is sadly still a part of daily life.

What will the future bring to this once thriving community? It is impossible to say, yet the strength and passion of these few had a powerful impact on us.

Yom Kippur on Corfu—definitely not Yom Kippur in San Francisco with CSZ—but a Yom Kippur we will never forget.



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Rabbi's Column

Continued from page 1

adopt the majority culture of his Greek empire. Most of the Jews rebelled and hid in desert caves, fighting a guerilla war for freedom. Eventually they achieved political and religious liberty.

It is sad that some contemporary Jews try to assimilate by making Chanukah into the Jewish equivalent of Christmas, stressing materialistic aspects such as decorations and presents. This is disrespectful to both holy days. Religious Christians are appalled by the American consumption orgy that has become Christmas. The desire of some American Jews to partake of this rat-race of excess is profoundly contrary to the spirit of Chanukah.

There is nothing wrong in Jewish people joining with our Christian friends and neighbors in their celebration of Christmas. This year our congregation is fortunate to find a temporary home at Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church. It will certainly be our pleasure and honor to be with them at their special season.

But Chanukah is not the Jewish Christmas. It should not become a venue of competition with Christianity, or a way to assimilate the values of the frantic gala of American materialism. Chanukah is about Jewish and personal integrity; we observe it best by living our lives in a way which honors its ethical imperative.

Members' Yahrzeits

18	David Glassberg
20	Norman David Kramer
21	Walter Palmer
29	Allan Craig

Naches

To **Mark Mackler**, on his new position as Librarian for Sonnenschein, Nath and Rosenthal.

To **Kenny Altman**, on his new position with Jewish Family and Children's Services as Office Manager of a Parent's Place.

To **Ed Schultz**, on passing his LCSW exams.

To **Alice Prussin, Smokey Cormier and Rina** on their new home.

To **Mark Troy**, on his new career as a flight attendant.

To **Jerry Rosenstein**, on his 70th birthday.

To **Brian Jersky**, on his 40th birthday.

To **Michael Bettinger and Robert Goldstein**, on their 10th anniversary.

To **Nina Kaiser and Nora Klimist**, on their 10th anniversary.

To **Debbi Jacobs-Levine and Joel Levine**, on their 10th anniversary.

To **Joe Hample and Reineres Susbilla**, on their 10th anniversary.

Condolences

We extend our condolences to:

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, on the death of our member, **Chuck Norton**.

Lonnie Weiss, on the death of her aunt, **Henrietta Weiss**.

Ida Kuluk and Evan Kuluk, on the death of Ida's father and Evan's grandfather, **Milton Kuluk**.

Michael Kay, on the death of his mother, **Sylvia Kay**.

David Stein and Alex Ingersoll, on the death of David's cousin, **Bobbie Cahn**.

Paul Cohen and Diana Buchbinder, on the death of their friend, **Scott Murphy**.

Claudia Bernard, Howard Herman and Benjamin Bernard-Herman, on the death of Claudia's mother, **Maxine Shear**.

Steve Horowitz, on the death of his cousin, **Suzanne Miller** and his friend, **John Carosella**.

Miriam Trentman and Batya Kalis, on the death of Miriam's father, **Harry Trentman**.

Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara, on the death of Allan's aunt, **Erma Newman**.

Barney Ugarte and Michelle Binder, on the death of their friend, **Jack Olasky**.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Birthdays

2	Elizabeth Kassoff
3	Suzanne Bojdak
3	Sophie Macks
4	Maxine Epstein
6	Dan Alpert
6	Amy Todor
7	Debbi Jacobs-Levine
7	Rina Prussin
8	Merry Luskin
9	Sara Felder Noily
9	Chaya Rivka Mayerson
12	Ken Carroll
12	William Goldstein
12	Walter Leiss
13	Anna Downs
14	Aaron Goldman-Maclachlan
14	Isabel Lahn-Schroeder
15	Laura Strauss
15	Phil Charney
15	Ron Lezell
15	Nina Raff
19	Kenneth Altman
19	Theodora Mauro
19	A. David Shaber
20	Michele Sullivan
23	Evan Kuluk
23	Jeffrey Piade
23	Allyn Stern
24	Max Blachman-Gentile
24	Drew Parker
25	G'dali Braverman
26	Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe
26	Jose Luis Moscovich
26	Ruthy Talansky
26	Scott Wenders
27	Rick Shelton
28	Allison Schaffer
29	Bernard Choden
29	Susan Gelmis
29	Reuben Winters Raff
31	Greer Hauptman
31	Gerry Llamado
31	Sam Thal

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Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, in memory of Milton Kuluk.
Eli Weinstein, in memory of Rose Charney.
Phyllis and George Mintzer, in memory of Dolores Urban and Milton Kuluk.
Sue Bojdak, in appreciation of Paul Cohen.

Children's Education Fund

Ida Kuluk and Susan Spott, in honor of the naming of Miriam Zoe Heath Katz.

General Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Sherrie Kantor.
Ami Zusman, in memory of Milton Kuluk.
Betty and Bernard Miller, in memory of Jeffrey A. Miller.
Kenny Altman, in memory of Glenn Smith.
Ida Kuluk, Evan Kuluk and Susan Spott, with appreciation for the CSZ community.
David and Mary Sperber.
Donald Abrams.
Dvora Honigstein, in memory of Adam Honigstein.
Marsha Blachman and family, in memory of Rose Charney.
Robin Leonard and Tory Weiser, in memory of Milton Kuluk.

Inclusive Liturgy Fund

Batya Kalis and Miriam Trentman, in appreciation of Ora Prochovnick's tenure as chair of the Ritual Committee.
Batya Kalis, in memory of Esther Kalis.
Batya Kalis and Miriam Trentman, in appreciation of Rena Frantz' support.
Miriam Trentman.
Batya Kalis and Miriam Trentman, in memory of Milton Kuluk.

Mishkan Dolores Fund

Joan Goldman, in memory of Ruth and Al Goldman.
Allan Berenstein, in honor of Stephanie Hannaford's new job.
Barbara and Bob Coulam, in memory of Steve Coulam.
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Jeffrey Miller.
Lisa Niver, in honor of Zachery Andrew Bernstein.
Lyssa Friedman and Daphne

Stuart, in honor of Rabbi Bergadine's service to CSZ.
Thelma Fox Chalmers, in honor of Tiela Chalmers.
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Rabbi Ben Marcus.
Brian Christianson, in honor of Susan Unger.
Deborah Udin, in appreciation of Rabbi Litman and Stewart Schwartz.
Eleanor and Samuel Frishman, in honor of Lezlie Frishman and Ellen Goldstein.
Dianne Levitin, in honor of Lyssa Friedman.
Richard Sinkoff, in memory of Stephen Mistler and Alice Sinkoff.
Deborah Udin, in appreciation of Ellen Lewin and Liz Goodman.
Alice Prussin, Smokey Cormier and Rina, in great happiness for Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath on the arrival of their daughter Miriam Zoe.
Lyssa Newhall, in memory of Ron Wilmot.
Jerome Nodiff, in honor of Daniel Chesir.
Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, in honor of Rabbi Litman's arrival at CSZ.
Alan Ferrara, in memory of Jon Peter Weisinger.
Smokey Cormier, in appreciation for Paul Cohen who is a mensch and wonderful mentor.
Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, in honor of Paul Cohen's 50th birthday.
Rose Katz, in memory of Marvin J. Katz.
Alan Gold, in memory of Dorothy Tonn Gold.
Smokey Cormier, in appreciation of Rabbi Litman who teaches with intelligence and wit.
Mary Ivas, in honor of Daphne Stuart's 40th birthday.
Nancy Aberle, in honor of Daphne Stuart's 40th birthday.
Jeri Lynn Cohen and Jaime Kibben, in honor of Daphne Stuart's 40th birthday.
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Milton Kuluk.
Batya Kalis and Miriam Trentman, in honor of the staff, coordinators, service leaders and volunteers whose work made our beautiful High Holiday services possible.
Trish Karlinski and Barbara Austin, in honor of Daphne Stuart's 40th birthday.
Valerie Hayden, in honor of Daphne Stuart's 40th birthday.
Steve Elman, in memory of Rose Charney.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in honor of Jeff Forman's 40th birthday.
Susan Simpson, in honor of Sue Bojdak's entrance into the Covenant.
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Frank Hyman.
Allan Berenstein, in memory of Rose Charney.
Tova Green.
Alexander and Martha Schwartz.
Allyn Stern.
G'dali Braverman, in honor of Mark Bowers and wishing him health and happiness.
David Stein and Alex Ingersoll, in honor of Allan Berenstein's birthday.
Barry Miguel.
Annabel and Robert Goldstein, in honor of Ellen Goldstein and Lezlie Frishman being called to the bimah at High Holidays.
Allen and Susan Weiss, in memory of Alex Abramson.
G'dali Braverman, in memory of Dr. Andy Zysman.
Stanley Yantis.
Doris Weiner.
Rimma Ashkinadze, in memory of Kathy Konstantos.
Michael Cohen.
Nina Jo Smith.
David Stein and Alex Ingersoll, in honor of the naming of Miriam Zoe Heath Katz.
Marjorie Hilsenrad, in memory of Rose and Abrasha Trunks.
Jay J. Kerzner.
Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert.
Misha Cohen.
Steve Elman, in appreciation of Lea Salem.

Prayerbook Fund

Bonni and Steven Schiff.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Bernard Pechter, in memory of Rose Charney.
Batya Kalis and Miriam Trentman, in appreciation of the *ruach, kavannah* and teaching of Rabbi Litman.
Lisa Schiffman, with appreciation for Rabbi Litman.
Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath, with thanks for Rabbi Litman's involvement in Miriam's blessing ceremony.

Robert K. Tat Oral History Fund

Gail Friedlander, in honor of Rob Tat's birthday.

High Holiday Donations

Marc Lipschutz.
Brian Besser.
Allan Giannini.
Ora Prochovnick and Rena

Frantz

Florence and Steve Nacamulli.
Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert, in honor of all the service leaders, volunteers and staff.
Dan Bellm.
Ellen Lewin and Liz Goodman, in honor of Rabbi Litman and Daniel Chesir for their wonderful Yom Kippur sermons.
Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman.
Lonnie Weiss, in memory of Henrietta Weiss.
Ami Zusman.
Michael Bettinger and Robert Goldstein.
Jonathan Funk.
Ron Wolberg.
Lawrence Helman, in honor of the 5th year of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy.
David Stein and Alex Ingersoll.
Steve Levine and Lane Schickler.
Hal Podgur.
Heather Fox.
Esther Saslafsky.
Rachel Goldstein and Reed Pruyn.
Peter Slote.
Adam Klein.
Kathleen McNulty Griest, in memory of Margaret Meier.
Richard C. Levy.
Roy Unger.
Vallery Feldman.
Gilda and Melvin Winiker, in honor of Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart.
Ariel Goldberger, in memory of Odon Goldberger and Emma Kohan de Schellemborg.
Michael Sieradzki.
Don Benedict, in memory of mom.
Susan Schwartz.
Jim Van Buskirk, in honor of Maxine Shear.
Mark Belletini, in memory of Stephen Mistler.
Andra Leonard, in memory of Harriet Opal.
Valerie Sobel.
Tamar Pachter and Stacey Hawver, in memory of Jacob Pachter.
A Biernoff.
Thea Hillman.
Ellen Pasternack.
Dorothy Yantis.
Elliot Block, in memory of Tom Charles Papera, MD.
Don Gerstman.
Lisa Alexander.
Richard Ostreicher.
Betty Esthelle, in memory of Helen and Meyer Klein.
Sherry Sporn.

Classifieds

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LOOKING FOR A ROOM TO RENT: Looking for a lesbian or lesbian-friendly household to call "home" in Glen Park, Noe Valley, Castro or Duboce Triangle. I am 30 years old; I have no pets, but love animals. I can take or leave meat in the house, but not cigarettes. Move-in date is flexible, between now and early January. If you are looking for an easygoing roommate who has a sense of humor and an appreciation for life; believes in and practices open communication; is independent and busy, yet sociable and friendly and is respectful of your space (both the literal and figurative kind), please give Elisa a call at (415) 422-0050. If I am not home, please leave a message on my voicemail with the best time to reach you. Or, you can email me at ElisaJF@aol.com. Call me, we'll talk.



Anniversaries

- 8 Theodora Mauro and Pamela Miller
- 12 Pieter de Haan and Ruth Rainero
- 13 Gabriele Kassner and Shelley Spiro
- 22 Bruce Henry and Pascal Peterson
- 24 Lucy Fine and Shuli Goodman
- 29 Benjamin Bank and Brian Jersky
- 31 Lynn Eden and Ruth Schoenbach
- 31 Laura Lowe and Karen Brandman
- 31 Florence and Steven Nacamulli



Synagogue Information

Rabbi Jane Litman

Officers:

President, Diana Buchbinder
(337-6319 or
threebuchs@sprynet.com)
First Vice President, David Gellman
Second Vice President, Susan
Tubbesing
Treasurer, Arthur Slepian
Recorder, Mark Bowers

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Michael Chertok
Ellie Cohen
Jeff Forman
Lyssa Friedman
Sara Haber
Joe Hample
Lisa Katz
Eileen Levy
Julie Moed

CSZ Staff:

Director of Education, David Shneer
Office Manager, Lea Salem
Kadimah Head Teacher, Phyllis Mintzer
Administrative Assistant, Amy Clark
Program Coordinator, Renée Bauer

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Sue Bojdak
Archives, open
ARZA contact, Ron Lezell
Baby Chavurah, Lisa Katz
Bequests and Donations, Richard
Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, David Shaber
Bisexual Chavurah, Jim Frazin
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Brotherhood, Stephan Howard
Building, Mark Klaiman
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Ruth
Rainero
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dues Liaison, Sara Haber
East Bay Services, Hilary Zaid
Endowment Fund, Merry Luskin

Environmental Action, Barak Gale and
Brian Besser
Finance, Arthur Slepian
Fine Arts, Alice Prussin
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin
La'atid, Geoff Benjamin
Leadership Development, Irene Ogus
and Paul Cohen
Library, open
Long-Range Planning, Allan Gold
Membership, Ami Zusman
Mishkan Dolores Campaign, Ellie
Cohen and Lisa Katz
Newsletter, Robin Leonard
Oneg, open
Past Presidents Council, Merry Luskin
Personnel, Susan Tubbesing
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslasky
Rabbi Liaison, Allan Gold
Ritual, Lyssa Friedman
Social Action, Eloise Magenheimer
Toddler/Pre-school Chavurah, Ilana
Bernstein
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WCGLJO Liaison, Neil Grungas
Women's Chavurah, open

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and of the World Congress

of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am — check calendar for each month.

Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored Onegs in November:

- 11/7 **Anonymous and Anonymous**, in honor of the 10th anniversary of their kiddushin.
- 11/14 **Membership Committee**, in honor of new members.
- 11/21 **Allan Berenstein**, for friends.

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1 Monday 2 Kislev

- Office closed—moving
- 7 pm, Children's Education Board
- 7 pm, Newsletter distribution

2 Tuesday 3 Kislev

- Office closed—moving
- 6:30 pm, Dues Committee
- 7 pm, Jewish History class
- 7 pm, Trope class

3 Wednesday 4 Kislev

- Office closed—moving
- 7 pm, A&D
- 7 pm, Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew class

4 Thursday 5 Kislev

5 Friday 6 Kislev

- Project Open Hand sign-up deadline
- 4:32 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Va-Yetze, Installation of Rabbi Litman, Unitarian Center, led by Rabbi Litman, Eileen Levy and Jonathan Funk; installation by Rabbis Richard Levy and Margaret Holub

6 Saturday 7 Kislev

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 9:30 am, Torah Study at Congregation Emanu-El
- 7:30 pm, Reception and Havdallah Service in honor of Rabbi Litman, Congregation Sherith Israel

7 Sunday 8 Kislev

8 Monday 9 Kislev

- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting

9 Tuesday 10 Kislev

- 7 pm, Jewish History class
- 7 pm, Trope class

10 Wednesday 11 Kislev

- 7 pm, Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew class
- 7 pm, Newsletter editing

11 Thursday 12 Kislev

12 Friday 13 Kislev

- 4:33 pm, Candle lighting
- 7:15 pm, Niggun Service
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Va-Yishlah, led by Batya Kalis, Daniel Chesir and Dev Felder Nolly

13 Saturday 14 Kislev

- 9 am, Torah Study at St. Matthew's Church
- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 10 am, Shabbat service, led by Rabbi Litman and Brian Besser
- 3 pm, HIV Support Group

14 Sunday 15 Kislev

- 5:30 pm, Elana Dykewomon at A Different Light, cosponsored by CSZ

15 Monday 16 Kislev

- 7 pm, Membership Committee
- 7 pm, Newsletter layout

16 Tuesday 17 Kislev

- 7 pm, Jewish History class
- 7 pm, Trope class

17 Wednesday 18 Kislev

- 7 pm, A&D
- 7 pm, Advanced Prayerbook Hebrew class

18 Thursday 19 Kislev

- 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee
- 7 pm, Bikkur Cholim Committee

19 Friday 20 Kislev

- 4:35 pm, Candle lighting
- 6:45 pm, East Bay Tot Shabbat at home of Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz, 2821 55th Ave., Oakland
- 8:15 pm, East Bay service
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Va-Yeshev, led by Rabbi Litman and Jose Luis Moscovich; Bikkur Cholim oneg lecture program: Rabbi Weiss on Critical Illness Support

20 Saturday 21 Kislev

- 9:30 am, Kadimah Family Program
- 9:30 am, Torah Study with Rabbi Litman at Congregation Emanu-El

21 Sunday 22 Kislev

22 Monday 23 Kislev

23 Tuesday 24 Kislev

- Chanukah—first candle
- CSZ volunteers at Project Open Hand

24 Wednesday 25 Kislev

- Chanukah—second candle
- CSZ volunteers at Project Open Hand
- 9:30 pm, La'atid laughs at Kung Pao Kosher Comedy

25 Thursday 26 Kislev

- Chanukah—third candle
- CSZ volunteers at Project Open Hand
- 7 pm, Newsletter distribution

26 Friday 27 Kislev

- Chanukah—fourth candle
- 4:39 pm, Candle lighting
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Mikketz, led by Lyssa Friedman

27 Saturday 28 Kislev

- Chanukah—fifth candle
- Chanukah at Home parties
- Kadimah winter break
- 9:30 am, Torah study

28 Sunday 29 Kislev

- Chanukah—sixth candle
- Chanukah at Home parties

29 Monday 30 Kislev

- Chanukah—seventh candle

30 Tuesday 1 Tevet

- Chanukah—eighth candle

31 Wednesday 2 Tevet

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

JANUARY FORWARD DEADLINES

FOR ADVERTISING MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

Please submit articles both on 3½-inch disk and hard copy on paper *double spaced*. Write "Attn. Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. *No deadline extensions without advance permission of Robin Leonard at 841-0262 or robinl@nolo.com.*

East Bay Services

- 12/19 Location TBA; call Hilary Zaid at 510/654-8907
- 1/16 Location TBA; call Hilary Zaid at 510/654-8907

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CHANUKAH AT HOME

We just left our home on Danvers Street, but don't fret - you will not be left homeless for Chanukah!

Sha'ar Zahav members will be hosting Chanukah parties in their homes on the fifth and sixth nights of Chanukah:

Saturday, December 27 and Sunday, December 28



Please fill in the information below and send it back to us by
December 12:

*Congregation Sha'ar Zahav/Attention: Renée Bauer
290 Dolores Street/ San Francisco, CA 94103*

We will match you to a specific home based on the information filled out below. You will receive a party invitation in the mail by December 20.

YES, I WANT TO GO TO A CHANUKAH PARTY HELD BY A CSZ MEMBER!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: Work _____

Home _____

Will you be bringing children?

Their ages: _____

I prefer to go to a party on:

☐ Saturday, Dec. 27 ☐ Sunday, Dec. 28 ☐ either

Are you interested in going to a party with:

☐ adults only ☐ singles ☐ families with kids ☐ no preference

I want to go to the party for CSZ's new men's group ☐.

I want to volunteer my home for a Chanukah party ☐.

I want to help out! ☐ lead Chanukah blessings ☐ lead songs

☐ food preparation ☐ pre-event logistics ☐ other: _____

